

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-55 were pending in the application. Claims 6, 7, 11-16, 22-27, 29, 32-35, 37-42 and 46-50 have been canceled to provide a total of no more than 5 independent claims and 25 total claims to conform the pending application to new rule 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as effective November 1, 2007. No inference nor admission is intended, nor should any be inferred that the subject matter of original claims, now canceled or amended, were not patentable as originally filed.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable consideration of the claims.

It is believed that no fee is due by reason of this preliminary amendment. It is believed that since this application has received no office action on the merits, Applicants are entitled to a refund under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 for the canceled claims. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional required fee, and to credit the excess claim fees and any other excess fees paid, to Deposit Account 50-0457 (101.0005).

Respectfully submitted,

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